GREENBELT
News Review
An Independent Newspaper

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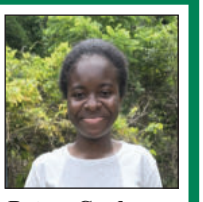

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VOL. 89, No. 29 | 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887 | JUNE 11, 2026

Election 2026

Two Experienced Candidates For County Sheriff in Primary

by Charlotte Ormond

PHOTOS COURTESY THE CANDIDATES

John D. B. Carr **Ron Oliver**

The Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff, founded in 1696, is responsible for enforcing decisions of the courts and providing direction and oversight of law enforcement operations throughout the county. The sheriff has full powers of arrest, and the office provides service 24 hours a day. Major roles of the sheriff include responding to domestic violence calls, enforcing court-ordered evictions, processing warrants, civil papers and domestic violence peace and protective orders. The sheriff is also responsible for security for the Hyattsville and Upper Marlboro courthouse complexes and for the Upper Marlboro county employee daycare center in emergencies. An additional duty of the sheriff is apprehension and transportation of wanted fugitives.

John D. B. Carr

John D. B. Carr is a lifelong Prince George's County resident, originally from Suitland and now

See **SHERIFF**, page 12

Built in Greenbelt, NASA's Roman Telescope Prepares for Fall Launch

by Charlotte Ormond

NASA scientists may be on the brink of a series of unprecedented space discoveries starting this September — and the telescope at the center of it was largely built and tested here in Greenbelt.

The Nancy Grace Roman Telescope, named after NASA's first female executive and first Chief of Astronomy, is a new NASA observatory that was constructed and tested at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt. Goddard's two main objectives in creating Roman are to discover the cause of the expansion of the universe and to search for exoplanets, which are planets located outside the solar system.

Scientists expect Roman will unveil secrets about this galaxy in ways that have never been possible with NASA's previous telescopes, Hubble and James Webb. With data collected from Roman, scientists can study 100,000 exoplanets, hundreds of millions of galaxies, billions of stars and rare objects that have never been witnessed before.

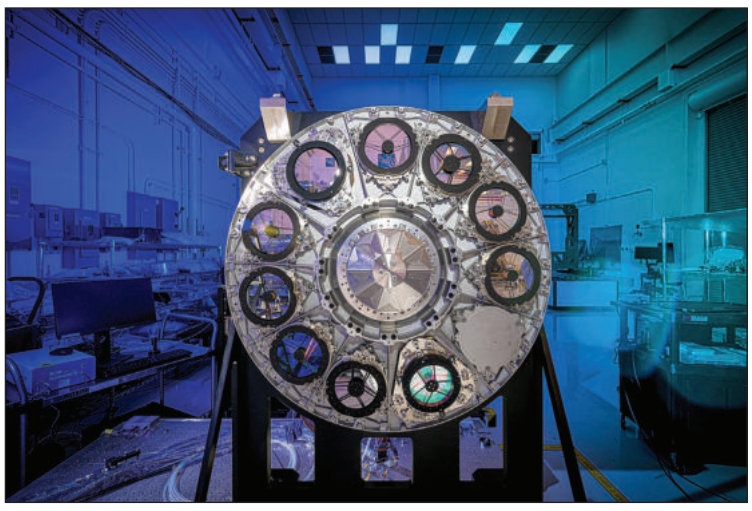

PHOTO COURTESY NASA

The element assembly wheel of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope

Goddard is home to scientists and engineers who build spacecraft instruments to study the universe. The center employs many Greenbelt residents and maintains strong ties to the community. Ryan McClelland, a Greenbelt resident, is one of the thousands of scientists who work at Goddard.

"Greenbelters feel very connected to the missions that are built here, because we live in the area. We're close to work, so it's very easy to get to," McClelland said. "I ride my scooter to the office every day, so I think we feel an extra connection to the missions just by our physical proximity."

McClelland, a University of Maryland alumnus, was the instrument carrier manager through the preliminary design review of

See **TELESCOPE**, page 11

Council Worksession Discusses Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

by Eric Hanson

Greenbelt City Council had a wide-ranging discussion of the city's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work at its June 1 worksession. Council had just approved a FY 2027 budget on May 26 that eliminated the DEI officer position as currently structured at Grade 15 but maintained the past year's funding level ($150,000) to allow for further discussion about how DEI work would be restructured and carried out.

Councilmember Danielle McKinney presented four different options for restructuring the city's DEI work: (1) a senior level DEI leader, (2) DEI role combined with Economic Development, (3) a manager-level role embedded within HR and (4) hiring an outside DEI expert as a consultant. These options range from (1) being the most expensive with the greatest chance for success to (4) being the least expensive with the lowest chance for success.

Mayor Emmett Jordan commented that where the DEI role was placed was only a matter of perception as long as council was fully behind the effort.

Councilmember Jenni Pompi noted that, based on weekly reports, the DEI office did less DEI work over time. She called for clearer goals and appropriate tracking and reporting going forward.

Several residents present at the meeting offered comments.

Bob Rand noted that the lack of DEI work accomplished by the DEI office might have been because DEI officer Tyra Smith's work may have been "throttled" and that it would be good to get her story before moving forward.

Lois Rosado said she could only support option 1 as "HR is where DEI goes to die," according to her research.

Bill Orleans noted that there would be a tension between the privacy needs of personnel issues and the desire for public communication if the DEI position was placed within HR.

Michael Hartman also noted the conflicts of interest that can arise with having a DEI role within HR and suggested DEI efforts should be expanded to include other groups, including those with disabilities.

Councilmember Amy Knesel echoed the concerns of residents that a DEI position would be "not effective" within HR. She expressed her desire to follow option 1 and hire a director position, but didn't know if there was "fertilized soil," good preparation, in place for a director to be successful. She called for council to review the past director's

See **DEI**, page 4

Election 2026

Three District 2 Candidates Run For Board of Education Seat

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Greenbelt is represented on the Prince George's County Board of Education by the District 2 Boardmember. This is a nonpartisan position but it will appear on the primary ballot this month. Current District 2 Boardmember Jonathan Briggs is not running for reelection and three candidates are running to replace him: Alvaro Ceron-Ruiz, Terence Clegg and Caroline Decaire-Goldin. All three have ties to PGCPS as a parent, former teacher or graduate. In addition, Clegg and Decaire-Goldin are Greenbelt residents and Ceron-Ruiz is a graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

PHOTOS COURTESY THE CANDIDATES

Alvaro Ceron-Ruiz **Terence Clegg** **Caroline Decaire-Goldin**

Alvaro Ceron-Ruiz

Alvaro Ceron-Ruiz is a graduate of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and former student school board member. He is running because PGCPS has shaped his life and because he has experienced PGCPS schools as a first-generation American and low-income student and experienced the governance process as student member of the board. "I believe firsthand experience is essential to matching the real needs of students, families, and schools with real action," he told the News Review. Ceron-Ruiz is a current University of Maryland student majoring in public policy and criminology and criminal justice.

1. What do you see as the top two priorities for Board of Education members to address in the next year?

In the next year, the Board of Education must prioritize protecting funding for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and addressing the literacy crisis. The challenges we face, from staffing and academic supports to student services, are rooted in our financial stability. As former Chair of the Board's Policy and Governance Committee, I gained experience working with and building relationships with our partners in Annapolis, which will be critical as the Blueprint is projected to have a short fall starting next year, threatening a larger budget crisis for us.

At the same time, we must

See **SCHOOL BOARD**, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, June 15, No City Council Meeting, Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference, Ocean City
Wednesday, June 17, No City Council Meeting, Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference, Ocean City

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

News Review Enters New Era With Commercial Online Ad

by Cathie Meetre

Several months ago, News Review staff began the process of piloting online advertising. It wasn't an easy decision: as a print paper, our online presence is always a bit of a mental leap. Online advertising in particular was somewhat controversial – we didn't want flash and jiggle on the screen. But economics prevailed – it is a potential resource that can help keep our special and increasingly rare weekly newspaper thriving.

The first try was house ads, encouraging others to advertise. There was a lot to learn – not to mention how to integrate such a venture into our billing and accounting. The first to step up (bravely taking up the challenge) was the Greenbelt Cinema, whose ad is now alternating on the left side of our home page. It makes perfect sense that being on screen would appeal to a movie theater. So, this week we feature the Cinema's challenge to our readers: Win Free Movies for a Year. Why Advertise? We hope you will all energetically click on the link and enter the competition.

Anyone who is the owner of a small business may want to consider advertising in the News Review and maybe an online ad as well. Our regular advertisers participate because the newspaper brings them a steady stream of new local customers and builds a name recognition that's there when needed. Residents faced with a challenge like looming hedges, freaky fuses and pathetic plumbing head straight for the News Review for familiar names, there when you need them. Toothaches, wills, car repairs and groceries – it's all there. Print advertisers are also eligible for reasonable rates for online ads.

PHOTO BY KEN LOO

Life (and death via osprey) as a fish at Greenbelt Lake

Story & Photograph Submissions

We welcome your stories and photographs about all things Greenbelt. While publication is not guaranteed, your submissions help us cover more of what goes on. Stories will be copyedited. Remember to include captions and identify people in photographs. See the information box on this page for publication deadlines and how to submit materials.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Disclosure Day

If you found out we weren't alone, if someone showed you, proved it to you, would that frighten you? This summer, the truth belongs to seven billion people. We are coming close to ... Disclosure Day. This sci-fi/mystery film from Stephen Spielberg stars Emily Blunt, Josh O'Connor, Colin Firth and Colman Domingo.

Backrooms

A strange doorway appears in the basement of a furniture showroom. The critics' consensus, according to Rotten Tomatoes: "A startlingly assured feature debut from director Kane Parsons, Backrooms bends the liminal spaces that have haunted the internet for years into a horror film that's as mesmerizing as it is terrifying."

Obsession

After breaking the mysterious One Wish Willow to win his crush's heart, a hopeless romantic finds himself getting exactly what he asked for but soon discovers that some desires come at a dark, sinister price. Said critic Jared Rasic of Detroit's Metro Times, "The film works beautifully thematically, but it functions even better as a jaw-dropping, wildly unpredictable body horror."

Back to the Future

In this 1980s sci-fi classic, small-town California teen Marty McFly is thrown back into the '50s when an experiment by his eccentric scientist friend Doc Brown goes awry. Traveling through time in a modified DeLorean car, Marty encounters young versions of his parents and must make sure that they fall in love, or he'll cease to exist. Even more dauntingly, Marty has to return to his own time and save the life of Doc Brown.

Correction

In our reporting last week of the FY 2027 city budget, we should have noted that council did not approve the proposal to move the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) position to Human Resources. As stated, the DEI position as it currently exists was eliminated and the $150,000 remains in the budget for DEI, pending a decision on how to restructure the role. See story on the front page.

PRIDE

greenbelt CINEMA

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always $7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!

After 5 PM: adults $10, kids $7, senior/student/military $9

Before 5 PM:
general admission $8, kids $6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
JUNE 12th - 18th

Disclosure Day (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (145 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:15 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:15 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM (OC), 5:15 PM
Tues. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Mon. 2:00 PM, 5:15 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM

Backrooms (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (110 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 2:15 PM (OC)
Wed. 4:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:20 PM
Sat. 8:30 PM
Sun. 2:20 PM
Tues. 7:25 PM
Thurs. 7:35 PM

Obsession (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (109 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 5:00 PM
Wed. 6:45 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:30 PM
Sat. 5:20 PM
Sun. 5:30 PM
Tues. 4:30 PM
Thurs. 5:00 PM

Back to the Future
(PG) (1985) (116 mins)
Cult Classic Sponsored by Lilly Electric. Join us at 1 pm for a special DeLorean appearance courtesy of Brian Paone!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 2:00 PM

Storytime on Screen - Free!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 10:30 AM-11:15 AM

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: $55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

At the Library

Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.

Pre-K Story Hour/
Hora de Cuentos de Prekinder

Friday, June 12, 10:30 a.m., ages birth to 5, Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Enjoy vibrant stories, fingerplays, and songs led by Greenbelt Branch Library Staff. After the storytime, enjoy playtime in the gym, a healthy snack and a free book from Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK). Disfruta cuentos vibrantes, juego de dedos, y canciones dirigidas por el equipo de la Biblioteca de Greenbelt. Después de los cuentos, disfruta de juegos en el gimnasio, una merienda saludable, y un libro gratis de RUAK. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16314228.

Weekly Ready 2 Read Storytimes
(Program Room)

Friday, June 12, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3, Register at pgcmls.info/event/16335542.

Wednesday, June 17, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16335168.

Thursday, June 18, 10:15 a.m., ages 0 to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16335270.

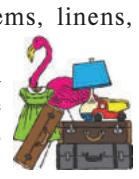
Come join in for stories, songs, fingerplays and more. This engaging activity nurtures early literacy and sparks creativity, making it an unforgettable experience for little ones.

Storytime on Screen

Monday, June 15, 10:30 a.m., ages 1 to 5, Greenbelt Cinema. Greenbelt Cinema and PGCMLS are offering a free program of stories, songs and a short film. This program is best suited for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers. No unaccompanied children or adults. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16314220.

Huge Rummage Sale at St. Hugh's

St. Hugh's annual huge Rummage Sale will take place Saturday and Sunday, June 20 and 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Great buys on clothes, household items, jewelry, seasonal items, linens, toys, books and more. There will also be a lunch menu and bake sale. Admission is free.



Campfires, Hikes At Greenbelt Park

The National Park Service is offering weekly campfire programs at the Loop B Campfire Circle.

On Fridays at 7:30 p.m., the program is Welcome to Washington.

On Saturdays at 8 p.m., there is programming alternating between nature and history topics to coincide with the nation's 250th anniversary. The June 13 program is Beautiful Butterflies!

Also, on Sundays at 1 p.m., Hike with a Ranger meets at the Dogwood Trail parking lot. The ranger leads a nature hike focused on the flora and fauna of Greenbelt Park in a beautiful and picturesque setting.

Greenbelt Park is open every day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Ranger Station is open from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The campground is open 24 hours a day, year-round, for registered campers and their guests.

Visit nps.gov/gree/planyourvisit/calendar.htm for more information.

June Events at Goddard

The Goddard Space Flight Center Visitor Center will host events this month for everyone from 3-year-olds to adults.

Thursday, June 18, 9 to 10 a.m., ages 3 to 5. Grow with Goddard: Activities and demonstrations for an hour before the Visitor Center is open to the public. The focus this month is senses, how both humans and satellites sense. At least one parent or guardian must be on-site for the program. Registration is required for each child participant at eventbrite.com/cc/nasa-goddard-visitor-center-3091729.

Saturday, June 20, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday Science: Activities to celebrate the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope and a presentation that will highlight the life of Nancy Grace Roman and mission updates.

Saturday, June 27, 1 to 2 p.m. Film Screening: A discussion of a new short film, Moon Man, about Robert Goddard's premiere launch 100 years ago, followed by an introduction by the film's creator and a screening. Registration is required at eventbrite.com/cc/nasa-goddard-visitor-center-3091729.

The Visitor Center is located at 9432 Greenbelt Road. Regular hours are Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

GATE GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION
Community-Driven Storytelling

Featured Programming on Greenbelt Access Television
June 2026
Verizon FiOS Channel 19 · Comcast Channel 77 · Streaming Online at GreenbeltAccessTV.org

GATe's Camcorder Essentials Course (2 Hours): Saturday, June 13th at 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm at GATe's Studio (15 Crescent, Suite 204). The class is now free and open to the public, but seats are limited. Email greenbeltaccess@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

Featured Productions
New, daily episodes of Democracy Now
Coverage of local events, performances and productions
All-new creations from Mister Geo's Homeschool Digital Animation Class

All this and more on our cable channels, online streaming, and YouTube channel. As always, thank you for tuning in!

Hear Zugby on GATe, Outstanding Citizens

Join the Greenbelt Rotary Club on Tuesday, June 23 to hear about the beginning of Greenbelt Access Television 40 years ago from founding board member Bob Zugby. In 1986 the Greenbelt City Council directed the creation of Greenbelt Access Television, built out of the previous Public Access Advisory Committee, as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization fostering public cable access. GATe aims to enrich the cultural landscape by presenting, producing and enabling a wide array of quality contemporary art, performing arts and community media programs, and enables residents to become empowered through the dynamic medium of television and video.

Zugby has also contributed to Greenbelt civic life as the longtime chair of the Outstanding Citizen Committee. First awarded in 1973 at the Labor Day Festival, the award recognizes Greenbelt residents who have distinguished themselves through exceptional volunteer service.

The event is Tuesday, June 23 in the Community Center, Room 114, with refreshments and conversation at 6:30 p.m., followed by the 7 p.m. talk. The Club meets every Thursday at 8 a.m. at the Greenway Center IHOP, except when club members host this evening speaker series (usually the second Thursday of the month).

Chess Club Meets Tuesday, June 16 & 23

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, June 16 and 23 at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:50 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to their mailing list, go to https://tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Direct questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. The schedule for the remainder of June follows.

June 17 — Birthday luncheon. Bring a dish to share. June birthday celebrants should be ready to tell their stories.

June 24 — Bingo.

Hunger Relief: PORCH

Greenbelt PORCH continues to support the Greenbelt Interfaith Food Pantry with nonperishable food items. Neighbors will collect food in June as scheduled below. Put out food by the times listed below; it will be collected after that.

Sunday, June 14 — by 11 a.m. at 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent and 1-2 Courts Westway.

Saturday, June 20 — by 9 a.m. at 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill.

Sunday, June 21 — by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village and 33 Court Ridge.

Saturday, June 27 — by 10 a.m. for Mathew Street to Megan Lane including Brett Place.

Sunday, June 28 — by 4 p.m. for Eastway and for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on June 28 at spreadruak@gmail.com and he will come to your porch.

Sunday, June 28 — by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

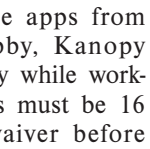
Sunday, June 28 — by 6 p.m. at 11-S Ridge, 14 and 16 Courts Ridge and 8 and 10 Courts Southway.

Juneteenth Celebration At Safeway, June 14

On Sunday, June 14, the Safeway in Greenway Center is hosting a Juneteenth Celebration from noon to 4 p.m. The event will feature fresh tastings from local minority-owned brands and family favorites, along with live entertainment, face painting, prizes, giveaways, in-store savings and more.

Star Party Saturday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will hold a star party at the Greenbelt Observatory near Northway Fields on Saturday, June 13 from 9:30 to 11:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Visitors can come into the observatory dome to watch the telescope operators or bring their own telescopes. The event will be cancelled if it's clouded over or raining. All are welcome. Children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



More Fun at the Library

Legos: Bricks and Beyond
(Auditorium)

Monday, June 15, 4 p.m., ages 5 to 12 (elementary). Build, create and explore with Legos. With plenty of pieces and endless possibilities, kids can let their imaginations take the lead in this free-style building session. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16281688.

STEM Fun: Turing Tumble
(Auditorium)

Tuesday, June 16, 4:30 p.m., ages 5 to 12 (elementary). Dive into the world of science, technology, engineering and math with fun, hands-on experiments and activities. Explore how computers think and solve some puzzles while learning about Alan Turing, a mathematician and computer scientist. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16304813.

Get Active: Ride and Read
(Auditorium)

Thursday, June 18, 11 a.m., ages 16+ (adult). Get moving and have fun at the Library. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with great free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Hoopla to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16294040.

This Week at the New Deal Café
Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt! Try Our New Menu & Drinks!

BECOME A MEMBER!*
NEW DEAL CAFÉ Greenbelt, MD
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight; Sunday, 9am – 9pm
REMEMBER TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS - IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY'RE PAID!
* * * RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642 * * *

TH 6/11	FRI 6/12	SAT 6/13	SUN 6/14
The Half Smokes 7 - 9pm Performing favs from the WHFS playlists - late 70's to early 90's.	Dance Little Sister 8 - 11pm Playing all the Stones hits you remember for a memorable night of entetainment	COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE, 3:30 - 5pm Black Masala 8 - 11pm Brassy DC-based band. A major party alert for a high energy show	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30a - 12pm GREEN MAN ART RECEPTION, 1 - 3pm Patsy's Honky Tonk Torch and Twang 6 - 8pm Classic country & Patsy Cline

MON 6/15	TUES 6/16	WED 6/17	TH 6/18	New Deal Cafe
REEL AND MEAL 6:30 - 9pm A monthly film series exploring social themes	NDC Open Mic w/ Joey Campfire 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	PUB QUIZ 7 - 9pm Bring your own team or form one! Join in on the fun	The Classic Jam w/ The Low Rent Quartet 6:30 - 9:30pm All skill levels welcome for this jam	RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below* THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

*Join NDC! Go to NewDeal Cafe(dot) com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."
FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Obituaries

Lynne Grace Ferguson

PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Lynne Ferguson

Lynne Grace Ferguson, 64, of Parkton, Md., died on Saturday, May 30, 2026 at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Born on September 15, 1961 in Baltimore, she was the daughter of the late James Duncan Ferguson and Elizabeth Mary (Grieb) Ferguson.

Lynne graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and pursued a career in medicine. She worked at Johns Hopkins Hospital at Bayview and Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC) before switching careers entirely. She went back to school for a degree in construction management and worked in the construction industry. Years ago, spurred by her son's interest in raising chickens, she decided to start a small family farm.

The driving impetus behind the start of the Ferguson Family Farm was to produce highly nutritious yet flavorful meats using sustainable agricultural methods. She turned what started as a small farm into a fully operational farm that services countless families throughout the District, Maryland and Virginia. Lynne took initiative, changed her career path and built the life she had always dreamed of.

Ferguson Family Farm was one of the original vendors at the Greenbelt Farmers Market, selling pasture-raised meats every summer Sunday since 2011. Using sustainable agricultural methods and rotational grazing models such as that used by Joel Salatin, all the Ferguson livestock are raised in their natural environment, moved to fresh, clean pasture daily and provided with clean, fresh water and wholesome natural feeds.

Surviving her is her son Sepp Duncan Panzer, brother Bruce Ferguson and nieces and nephews. Lynne is also survived by her best friend Beth Camps and longtime partner Arlie Cornbower and his son Allen Cornbower.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, June 7.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DORAN

A table at the Ferguson Farms space at the Farmers Market on Sunday, June 7, holds flowers, a paper turkey decoration and a sympathy card for patrons to sign.

Registration Open For Peace Camp

Little Friends for Peace (LFFP) will hold its fifth annual Peace Camp at Greenbelt Community Church this July 20 to 24, Monday through Friday. Peace Camp is a week-long summer camp for children ages 5 to 14 to learn skills for cooperation, nonviolent communication, empathy and problem solving through Peace Circles, art, music, cooperative games, a Peace Museum and other peace tools. LFFP Co-Directors MJ and Jerry Park have led Peace Camps in Minnesota and the Washington, D.C., area annually since 1981.

In the past 10 years, LFFP has reached 3,700 children through more than 83 Peace Camps, and post-camp surveys have found a 40 percent increase in camper ability to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Information on registration, as well as applications for Peace Camp counselor and junior counselor positions (ages 15+), can be found at LFFP.org/peacecamp.

2026 May Be Hotter,Wetter

by Joan Estenson

Scientists are warning that conditions in the Pacific Ocean could lead to a powerful El Niño weather pattern that is developing earlier than expected, potentially bringing conditions to Maryland that will continue into winter.

On May 14 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center estimated an 82 percent chance that El Niño conditions will develop as soon as this month and a 96 percent chance they will persist into February 2027.

NOAA's latest May through July outlook for Maryland indicates residents have a 40 to 50 percent chance of experiencing above-normal temperatures these next few months. NOAA also says the majority of the state will see about a 40 to 50 percent chance of above normal rain totals.

A historically strong "super El Niño" can disrupt weather patterns worldwide, often bringing heavier rains and flooding to some regions while worsening drought and heat in others.

Meteorologists say a major event in 2026 could contribute to record global temperatures, alter hurricane activity, fuel wildfires and strain food and water supplies in vulnerable areas. NOAA said it is still too early to know whether this year's weather pattern will reach super El Niño strength. Spring forecasts are notoriously uncertain because ocean and atmospheric conditions can change rapidly.

DEI continued from page 1

deliverables and bring in an outside expert to evaluate before a new director position was set.

At the close of the worksession Councilmember Kristen Weaver summarized what the council seemed to agree on: (1) council does not want to rush into hiring for this work, (2) hiring the right outside expert could help structure this position, (3) council wanted to get regular reports on this work so it can stay on course and (4) a resident advisory committee should be formed. McKinney added that (5) past data and documentation recommended from the 2024 Tribesy Consulting study (see June 26, 2024 issue) should be compiled so that it could inform the work going forward.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

Our Neighbors

We were saddened to learn of the death of Lynne Ferguson, founder of Ferguson Family Farms, a mainstay of the Greenbelt Farmers Market since 2011.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

City Notes

Public Safety/Community attended Greenbelt Station's Community Walk. Constituent Services hosted the 4th Annual Pride Flag Raising ceremony. Code Enforcement inspected 4 Roosevelt Center properties and 27 rentals.

After three adoptions, the Animal Shelter is at capacity with six cats, nine kittens and four dogs.

Public Works delivered furnishings for five Greenbelt Day events and Ballfields repaired an irrigation leak and an Armory door. Facilities Maintenance installed a new exhaust fan in the kiln room.

The Community Center hosted a band concert, a blood drive, summer camp orientation and an Artful Afternoon tie-dyeing event.

Therapeutic Recreation offered seniors a retirement seminar and a field trip.

Rangers resolved park troubles: a missing child, head injury and some disorderly behavior.

During May, CARES counseled 155 clients (58 minors), mentored 15 GED and 6 Workforce Development aspirants, tutored 22 students and taught 13 English learners. An additional food distribution at Springhill Lake Recreation Center served 164 individuals in 46 families.

"Love is the light that guideth in darkness, the living link that uniteth God with man, that assureth the progress of every illumined soul." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Let's party! Celebrations from the Bible.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!
A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
We Are an Open and Affirming Church
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM for Worship
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org
Rev. Aubra Love, Senior Pastor

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am,11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.
*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.
CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Yael Fischman
A welcoming, inclusive, and friendly synagogue offers something for everyone: young, old, single, married, and both Jewish and interfaith families.
Services at 8:00pm Friday and 9:45am Saturday in person and on Zoom
For more information, visit MishkanTorah.org or call 301-474-4223
A Dual-Affiliated Reconstructionist and Conservative congregation
10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Students' Lake Cleanup

by Ava, Katherine and Samaria

We are fifth grade students from Elsa Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School, Brookland campus and we are doing a clean-up for our school. Our project is Pollution in the Anacostia River and How It Affects Animals in and Around the River. Because Greenbelt Lake is a part of the Anacostia watershed, we wanted to come here to do our project.

PHOTO BY XAVIER COUROUBLE

Volunteers Steven, Katherine, Samaria, Ava, Emma, Lucy Gonzales (teacher), Abby, Sofia Merino (teacher), Rebecca Courouble (International Baccalaureate program coordinator) and City of Greenbelt Park Rangers help to clean up Greenbelt Lake.

City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

MEETINGS FOR JUNE 15 - 19

Monday, June 15, **NO MEETING - MML SUMMER CONFERENCE**

Tuesday, June 16 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION - *Council Chambers,*** *On the Agenda: Discussion of recommendations, Town Hall preparation, Report writing update, Announcements, and Public Comment*

Wednesday, June 17, **NO MEETING - MML SUMMER CONFERENCE**

Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD - *Greenbelt Community Center,*** *On the Agenda: Council Liaison Updates, Discussion of Hanover Parkway Shared-Use Path 60% Design Plan, Staff Updates*

Wednesday, June 17 at 7:30 pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD - *Zoom,*** *On the Agenda: TBD*

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

SUMMER KICK-OFF CELEBRATION

Friday, June 12, 2 - 6 pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Come enjoy music, games, refreshments, community information tables with Greenbelt Recreation and your neighbors and friends. Children and parents alike will be delighted on this fun-filled day. This will be the perfect free family event to help end the school year and welcome summer break.

For more information, please contact Frank Jones, fjones@greenbeltmd.gov or Brian Butler, bbutler@greenbeltmd.gov. Please check the city website the morning of the event for updated event status.

FOREVER FREE AND THE ILLITERACY PLAYBOOK

Sunday, June 21 from 6 - 8:30 pm

Greenbelt Cinema, 129 Centerway

Join us for a powerful film, live discussion, and celebration of impact. Proceeds support literacy initiatives by The Better Place, Inc.

In partnership with the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee.

For more information and for tickets, visit the EventBrite page.

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." — Frederick Douglass

BILINGUAL PRE-K STORY HOUR
HORA DE CUENTOS DE PREKÍNDER

Friday, June 12 | 10:30 - 11:30 am

Springhill Lake Recreation, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Join us on the second Friday of every month!

Children Ages 0-5
Come and enjoy the wonderful work of storytelling and free health snacks. Friends & family are all welcome to attend.

Niños de 0-5 años
Ven y disfruta del maravilloso mundo de contar cuentos y bocadillos saludables port gratis. ¡Amigos y familiares bienvenidos!

This series is sponsored by RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness); Prince George's County Memorial Library System; Greenbelt Recreation, American Legion Auxillary, and Greenbelt COOP.

Contact joseph.vincent@gpcmls.info or spreadruak@gmail.com.

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Friday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth.
THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.

REFUSE / RECYCLING SCHEDULE
Week of June 15

Monday Route - No Change
Tuesday Route - No Change
Wednesday Route - No Change
Thursday Route - Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, May 29

The city will holding an **Electronics, Styrofoam, and Paint Recycling** event on Saturday, July 25 from 9 am - 12 pm in the Public Works Yard.

UPCOMING NATURE EVENTS

Kayaking at Buddy Attick Park
Saturday, June 13 from 8 - 11:30 am
Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Rd

Join Greenbelt Park Rangers and explore Greenbelt Lake by Kayak. Kayaks, vests, and paddles are provided at no cost, but supplies are limited. Participants are welcome to bring their own watercraft, vests, and paddles.

Walk with a Ranger
Saturday, June 20 from 10 - 11 am
Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Rd

Enjoy a morning stroll around Greenbelt Lake along with the Greenbelt Park Rangers. Meet at the main entrance under "The Big Tree". No registration required. The walk lasts approximately 1 hour.

GREENBELT CARES PROGRAMS

HOME SAFETY CHECKUPS
Mondays June 15, July 20 and August 17 from 10 am to 2 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

For more information contact Natalie Garcia: ngarcia@greenbeltmd.gov or 240-244-6010

STRONGER MEMORY CLASSES
Tuesdays, July 7 through August 11, 1 - 2:30 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

Participants will learn practical strategies to strengthen memory, stay mentally active, and connect with others in the community.

FREE - Registration is required. Final call for registration is June 15. To register, contact Cesar Herrera at 202-891-8071.

FEATURED PETS
SOPHIE

Ready for Adoption?

Call (301) 474-6124

7-year-old Sophie was surrendered to our shelter when her owner could no longer care for her. Sophie has had a difficult time adjusting to the shelter, but once she warms up to you, she's a sweet and loyal dog who longs for companionship. Sophie loves fetch and going on walks (and is non-reactive and walks great on a leash!). She is house-trained and super smart -- she knows sit, lie down, high five, and roll over. Sophie has also previously lived with a cat, and her former owner says she loves other dogs.

If you're interested in adopting spectacular Sophie, please reach out to us at animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov or call us at (301) 474-6124 for more information.

* VOLUNTEER * VACANCIES * APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Appeals, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx

June Artful Afternoon
FREE art workshop for all ages! 6/14: 1:30-2:30pm (Springhill Lake Recreation Center). Tie-dye colorful designs with provided bandanas or bring your own cotton item from home. Sign-up here: sugeni.us/etqV. Walk-ups also welcome as space and supplies permit.

Intro to Painting on Canvas
Mondays, 6/29-8/10; 6-8pm (Greenbelt Community Center) Learn techniques in oil or acrylic painting while you plan and complete a large painting of your choice! This class will include techniques such as underpainting, layering, and glazing. Registration required - see page 22 of the Summer Activity Guide.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- **June Art Share** 6/14; 2-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center)

Registration required for the following activities, see www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide for details

- **Youth Pottery on the Wheel** M-F, 3:45-5:45pm. 6/29-7/10. Greenbelt Community Center (page 17) Additional dates available.
- **Watercolor for Beginners & Intermediates** Thursdays, 6/25-8/6; 6-8pm (Greenbelt Community Center) page 21.

Arts & Entertainment

Review

The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals Now Playing at the Arts Center

by Christopher Stark

The current play at Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC), The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals, is a singing, dancing production with an accurate title: the lead character really doesn't like musicals. When we meet him, Paul Matthews is declining to attend a performance of Mamma Mia! in his small town. That fictional community, Hatchetfield, Michigan, is a creation of StarKid Productions, the originators of this story on themes that are suggested by entrance and intermission music, including Michael Jackson's Thriller and REM's It's the End of the World as We Know It.

Life for Paul becomes much more stressful after a silver meteor lands on the local theater and his neighbors are overtaken by the urge to sing and dance. While a chorus line menace may be a new threat from outer space, this 21st century play is rooted in the alien invasion movies of the 1950s. StarKid advertises the musical style of the play as Musical Theater Nightmare, and the viewer may see further influences from The Rocky Horror Picture Show of the 1970s and Mickey Rooney's frequent exhortation from the 1930s, "Hey kids, let's put on a show." In this case, the show is a romp that is more fun if not described in detail.

From left, Ethan Fontaine, Joselin Loza, Maximo Gomez (facing rear), Morgan Rapsky, Kirby Povilaitis, Natalie Mawhood and Maura Campbell perform the opening number.

- Photos by Mike Bennett

Michele Onwochei (Bill), Joe Maxwell (Paul) and Maura Campbell (Charlotte)

GAC's young and energetic cast and staff acquit themselves well. Joe Maxwell plays the lead character Paul and Morgan Rapsky plays the barista Emma with whom Paul shares some very strange adventures. The other cast members (Maura Campbell, Cormac Coleman, Ethan Fontaine, Maximo Gomez, Gabrielle Johnson, Joselin Loza, Natalie Mawhood, Michele Onwochei and Kirby Povilaitis) double and triple in roles and also put in a lot of singing and dancing in the ensemble. A big credit is due to cast and crew for multiple costume changes and traffic direction backstage as performers exit and enter unpredictably and on the run. In line with a suggestion from StarKid Productions, casting is generally blind to gender, ethnicity and planet of origin.

This show runs on weekends at Greenbelt Arts Center from June 5 to 20. The version of the script performed is described as school friendly, but GAC advises that this show contains flashing and bright lights, depictions of drinking and smoking, simulated violence, cartoonish gore and blue gunk.

For more information and tickets, visit greenbeltartscenter.org.

Artful Afternoon Offers Tie-dye

Guests of all ages are invited to attend the free Artful Afternoon workshop on Sunday, June 14 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Use tie-dye to make fun and colorful designs on provided bandanas, or bring a T-shirt, tote bag or other pre-washed cotton item from home. Guests are encouraged to sign up in advance at sugeni.us/etqV. Walk-ins are welcome as space permits.

Art Share Sunday

Artists of all experience levels are invited to participate in a free Art Share from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 14 at the Community Center, Room 113. Bring one to three pieces in any medium. This activity is intended for teens and adults. Participants are encouraged to sign up to receive communications about this series at sugeni.us/eE4I.

Reel and Meal

Earth's Greatest Enemy May Be the United States Military

by Kathleen Bartolomeo

On June 15, the Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café will feature the documentary Earth's Greatest Enemy, which exposes the environmental toll of U.S. military operations around the globe.

From toxic contamination at Camp Lejeune to pollution at more than 800 military bases worldwide, the film reveals how military activities have left a lasting environmental footprint. It examines the impacts of bombing exercises over oceans, the legacy of hazardous waste and the long-term ecological devastation that warfare can leave behind — often destroying the land, water and resources that communities depend on for survival.

The film will be shown at the New Deal Café on Monday, June 15, at 6 p.m. Note that the start time is earlier than usual. Codepink and Kathy Bartolomeo sponsor the film and will lead a discussion following the film.

Reel and Meal is a monthly film series focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues. While the film is free, the Café has a full dinner menu for purchase including several plant-based options. The screenings are hybrid: in-person at the Café and virtually via Zoom. Those unable to attend in person can register to watch via Zoom at tinyurl.com/ReelMeal2026.

PHOTO BY LEAH COHEN

A pandora sphinx moth, considered uncommon, hosts on porcelain berry and wild grapes.

School News

PGCPS Reverses Decision To Cut Immersion Programs

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Friday, June 5, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) announced a reversal of their decision to cut language immersion at the middle and high school levels and in boundary programs (K-8 lottery immersion schools, including Dora Kennedy in Greenbelt, had remained unchanged under both plans). "We are pleased to share that Prince George's County Public Schools will fully sustain Language Immersion programming for the 2026–2027 school year," read the announcement. Parents of immersion students had rallied and campaigned to save the programs, and Superintendent Shawn Joseph referenced their advocacy at a recent meeting of the board workgroup. Though the parents celebrated the decision some said it had come too late for the fall cohort, particularly of rising high schoolers.

The cuts that were part of the superintendent's budget would have closed Chinese Immersion at Paint Branch Elementary and Spanish Immersion at Capitol Heights Elementary and Chinese Immersion at Greenbelt Middle School, as well as all high school immersion programs – Chinese, Spanish and French, all of which are housed at Largo High School. For more on the decision to close the programs to incoming and transition students, see the February 4 issue.

On June 4, a letter to parents of eighth grade students at language immersion schools from Chief Academic Officer Judith J. White said PGCPS was pleased to announce they would fully sustain language immersion for 2026-2027. The Strategic Realignment Workgroup led by the Board of Education is currently conducting a review of the budget to guide long-term financial decisions, said PGCPS, but their work "will not be completed in time to inform immediate programmatic decisions for the upcoming school year," said the announcement. However, the administration will realign funds across AI, professional development and innovation work "to bridge the gap," and keep the immersion options, "while the budget workgroup continues its long-range financial planning."

"Final budget decisions will be made in June in preparation for the July 1 start of FY 2027. As budget planning is an ongoing process, adjustments may continue throughout the year based on enrollment, staffing, grant funding and operational needs," said the PGCPS announcement.

A Late-Coming Option

Boundary immersion parents like those at Paint Branch Elementary had been informed in a letter from White dated January 27, "After careful consideration, we have determined that we can no longer sustain the immersion model in a way that best supports an immersion experience. As a result, the following is a proposed change for your school. The Chinese Immersion Program will be turned into a Chinese World Languages program. Students will still have the opportunity to stay connected to the language through Chinese World Languages instruction in a separate class and will now receive all instructional content in English." They celebrated the restoration of the immersion program at the school, though one parent said more than one of the immersion teachers had already planned to leave the school.

Students who will begin high school in the fall have already had to make other plans. "We understand you may have chosen a different program or neighborhood boundary school for your student due to the recent discussions about potential changes to our immersion programming," acknowledged a June 4 letter to those families. "However, as a result of our ongoing strategic realignment, we are pleased to let you know that you may now opt to switch your student's enrollment back to the Immersion program for the 2026-2027 school year," it read. The deadline to respond and accept an immersion seat is Thursday, June 11, one week from the date of the letter.

Review of the January 23 letter to eighth grade immersion parents shows that, although White stated, "we propose transitioning from the Immersion High School Program due to its low enrollment," she also wrote that "the Immersion High School Program will be transitioning over time," framing the proposal as more than "discussions." In addition, further solidifying the change, on February 2, PGCPS reopened high school specialty applications (which had been due in the fall) to eighth grade immersion students so they could select alternative options for the coming year, removing immersion from the list of high school options they could select.

Natascha Carroll is one immersion parent whose child had been looking forward to continuing Spanish immersion at Largo with friends she has been with since kindergarten at her K-8 immersion school. Her daughter had been heartbroken at the sudden news that they wouldn't be able to go to the high school they'd planned on for the fall, or continue in an immersion program, Carroll told the News Review. "I don't know if she will trust it," Carroll had said when she first learned that high school immersion might once again be an opportunity for her daughter. Carroll said some other parents had already signed their children up for private school – that's something PGCPS wants to avoid as the district confronts a trend of declining enrollment. Since the news at the end of January, Carroll's daughter, who plays basketball, and their family have met coaches, staff and guidance counselors at another PGCPS school. Carroll's daughter will continue as a PGCPS student, she said, but won't be enrolling in the immersion program they had planned for after all.

Erica Watson Staples is another immersion parent with an

See **IMMERSION**, page 10

Controversial BusPatrol Contract On Board of Ed Consent Agenda

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Four days ahead of their June 11 Board of Education business meeting, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) released the agenda. Among items on the consent agenda is the renewal of their contract with BusPatrol, which provides cameras for stop-arm infractions on the buses. As reported in the Greenbelt News Review February 5, 2025 issue, in FY 2023 the revenue and expenditures of the School Bus Stop-Arm Camera program showed a gross profit of $8,354,818.80 from violations. From that amount PGCPS was making a net income of $597,444.77, dwarfed by BusPatrol's share of over $6.6 million. The BusPatrol contract was flagged by a 2025 state audit of PGCPS that found the contract process "improper" and without assurance PGCPS had obtained best value.

Impact on County Budget

In 2023, a Prince George's County budget overview memo noted an increase of $4.9 million over the previous year's budget, saying, "The increase is primarily due to increases in operating costs to support the new School Bus-Arm Camera safety program in partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools," according to the memo's Budget Overview. "The $6.5 million increase in the School Bus Stop Arm program expenditures in FY 2022 is a result of the agreement between the Prince George's County Public School System and BusPatrol (the vendor). BusPatrol is paid a contracted fixed 'Technology Fee' of $400 per month for each school bus that is equipped with a BusPatrol Camera. The fee is continuous with the operation of the program," it states in the Facilities and Operating Revenues and Expenditures section.

State Audit Findings

In 2025 the Financial Management Practices Audit Report from the Department of Legislative Services of the Maryland General Assembly contained several findings including "PGCPS improperly used an ICPA (intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreement) to procure a school bus camera system contract resulting in a lack of assurance that it obtained the best value."

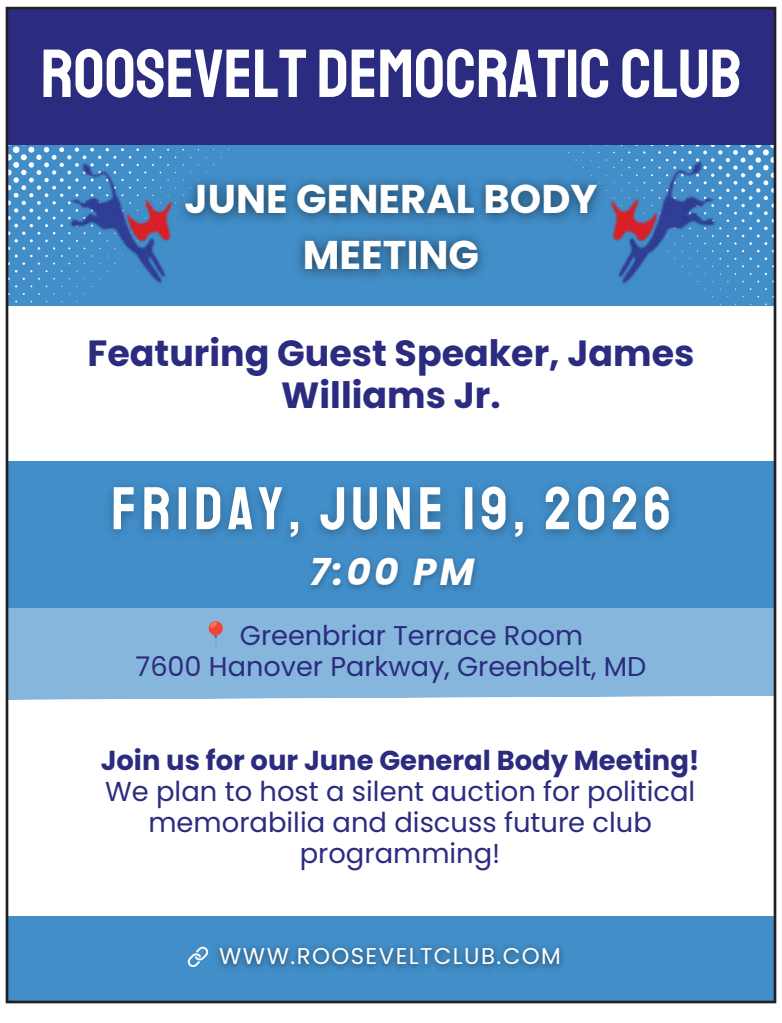
The five-year, renewable contract began on April 8, 2021, says the Audit report and "as of February 1, 2024, the county has only received $5.2 million (or 17 percent) of the $30 million in citation revenue for the first 27 months of the program's operation from April 8, 2021, through December 31, 2023." The audit found that "PGCPS did not prepare a written assessment of the benefits for using the ICPA as required by State law," didn't document research into other available options and "could not support how it determined certain payment terms, which were different from the ICPA."

The audit found PGCPS made a monthly disbursement of $400 per bus as a "technology fee" from gross citation revenue, followed by a further 60 percent that went to the vendor, despite the fact that the ICPA had a 50 percent split in citation revenue and no technology fee. "PGCPS did not have support for how the technology fee was determined by the vendor or why it was necessary in addition to the revenue sharing," said the audit. "As a result, PGCPS essentially procured its own unique contract with the vendor without a competitive procurement process and assurance that it obtained the best value."

Meanwhile the state's audits of other Maryland local education agencies (LEAs) found other vendors exist for these services. At least one LEA has awarded a similar contract using a

See **BUSPATROL**, page 10

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO HELP
CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY.
Generous Joe's Deli
60th
ANNIVERSARY
JUNE 13TH @ 1-3PM
FREE Arcade game play - ALL DAY!
FREE Kona Ice - for the first 100 guests!
FREE Slice of Pizza!
WE APPRECIATE ALL OF YOUR CONTINUOUS LOVE AND SUPPORT. SO LET US GIVE BACK IN CELEBRATION!


ROOSEVELT DEMOCRATIC CLUB
JUNE GENERAL BODY MEETING
Featuring Guest Speaker, James Williams Jr.
FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026
7:00 PM
Greenbriar Terrace Room
7600 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD
Join us for our June General Body Meeting!
We plan to host a silent auction for political memorabilia and discuss future club programming!
WWW.ROOSEVELTCLUB.COM

SCHOOL BOARD continued from page 1

address literacy with urgency. Reading is the foundation for success in every subject, and students who are not reading on grade level by third grade are unfortunately four times less likely to graduate from high school. Ensuring strong early literacy instruction and intervention must remain a top priority if we want to improve long-term student outcomes in PGCPS.

2. What is your position on technology in the classroom, including the place of screen-based learning and educational platforms? How would you prioritize classroom technology and subscriptions within the budget relative to other student support services?

Technology has a real place in our classrooms but as a support, not a substitute for strong teaching and genuine connection between educators and students. When schools use it well, it can make a meaningful difference. Targeted reading tools can help address the literacy crisis head-on, and adaptive platforms can better serve students with IEPs [Individualized Education Programs], 504 plans and English learners through accommodations, translation tools and assignments that actually meet them where they are. When it comes to budget decisions, I'd back technology investments that show real results and are actually being put to use in our schools. But that can't come at the expense of what students need most: mental health support, academic intervention and the people who provide them. Technology is truly only as effective as the educators and systems around it.

3. How do you plan to hold those who report to the board and your fellow members accountable as to board policies and requirements that haven't always been enforced in recent years, such as attendance requirements, budget deadlines and governing rules in general?

Public trust in the Board of Education is not to be assumed but earned through transparency, professionalism and accountability. Board policies, attendance requirements, the Open Meetings Act and COMAR [Code of Maryland Regulations] exist to ensure effective governance, and they must be followed consistently by both board members and the superintendent. As a former board member, I have seen firsthand what works and what does not, and I understand the importance of adhering to the rules that govern our work. I also believe experienced members have a responsibility to help educate and mentor new members on the board handbook so everyone understands their obligations from day one.

The board must elect fair but firm leadership that enforces expectations consistently. Further accountability should be reinforced through community oversight, the board's Ethics Panel and, when necessary, the Maryland State Board of Education to keep the focus on students rather than politics.

4. How do you plan to improve transparency and proactive communication with the District 2 community?

As a board member, I would provide regular updates to District 2 families through community meetings, newsletters, social media and school visits so the community understands not only what decisions are being made, but why they are being made. While previously on the board, we advocated for and got public data dashboards, but we need to do a better job of educating families on how to use and interpret them so they can track school performance and hold us accountable. In addition, I would advocate for a public-facing budget dashboard that makes it easier for taxpayers and families to understand where resources are being invested.

Equally important is meeting people where they are. That means being present not just at board meetings, but at community meetings, grocery stores, barber shops, faith-based organizations and other neighborhood gathering places, while also partnering with municipal leaders to ensure information reaches every corner of District 2. Trust is built through consistent engagement, accessibility and follow-through.

Terence Clegg

Terence Clegg says his number one reason for running is really three: his three children (ages 10, 9 and 5) who all attend Prince George's County Public Schools, two of whom engage with special education services. Clegg says he wants to do what he can to make children's lives better, including his own, for children to get the most out of educational experiences and "make that fight less exhausting for all families."

Clegg holds a bachelor's in political science from North Carolina A&T State University and a juris doctor from Howard University School of Law.

1. What do you see as the top two priorities for Board of Education members to address in the next year?

Literacy and special education are the two areas that demand the board's immediate attention. Too many of our students are not reading at grade level, and the consequences follow them throughout their education and beyond. Families of students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and 504 plans used for students with disabilities deserve a school system that treats those plans as binding commitments, not suggestions. Both issues require the board to ask harder questions, demand better data and hold leadership accountable for results.

2. What is your position on technology in the classroom, including the place of screen-based learning and educational platforms? How would you prioritize classroom technology and subscriptions within the budget relative to other student support services?

I support technology in the classroom, but only when it clearly improves instruction, access or student outcomes. Screen-based platforms should not replace strong teachers, in-person discussion, handwriting, reading, collaboration or the daily habits students need to focus and grow. Our students should learn coding, digital citizenship and responsible research skills because those are a part of their future. I think our budgets for digital tools should be evidence-based and audited regularly for usage, privacy, accessibility, student impact and redundancy. I would prioritize educators, special education, mental health supports, tutoring, literacy, math intervention and safe classrooms before adding new platforms. Technology should serve the learning plan, not drive it. The goal is to prepare students for a tech-driven world while protecting attention, relationships, communication skills, and deep learning.

3. How do you plan to hold those who report to the board and your fellow members accountable as to board policies and requirements that haven't always been enforced in recent years, such as attendance requirements, budget deadlines and governing rules in general?

Real accountability means being honest in both directions. I will ask tough questions when policies go unenforced, deadlines are missed or commitments to students fall short, and I will push for real consequences when they do. But accountability is not only about what is broken. When our schools, educators and leaders are getting it right, I will say that just as loudly and fight to sustain it. Ultimately, voters will hold me and my colleagues accountable for whether we do this job well. That accountability runs both directions and I intend to model the standard I expect of others.

4. How do you plan to improve transparency and proactive communication with the District 2 community?

I have been an engaged community member for the entire time I've lived here. I know that we deserve to hear from our officials regularly and not just at election time. I plan to make myself available at community events and hold regular community meetings of my own, be it virtually, in-person or both. I plan to provide plain language updates on board actions and decisions and make myself genuinely accessible to parents, educators and community members across the district. I want to make sure that District 2 residents can find the information they need, understand it and use it to engage. Most importantly, I will prioritize building relationships with PTAs and community organizations and helping start PTAs and PTOs where none exist so that we have more opportunities for communications to flow in both directions. Our community should never have to wonder what their board member is doing or why.

Caroline Decaire-Goldin

Caroline Decaire-Goldin says she is running for the school board because "as a former PGCPS teacher, current PGCPS parent and longtime champion for educational equity, ... I want every family to feel confident that their student will be taught by a well-prepared teacher, in a classroom where they know they belong and are supported to reach ambitious academic goals that put them on a path to chase their wildest dreams."

Decaire-Goldin holds a doctoral degree in education and a master of education in policy and leadership from American University. She serves as Director of Teaching and Learning in the D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

1. What do you see as the top two priorities for Board of Education members to address in the next year?

1) Building trust and leveraging communication channels that meet families where they are, and 2) finalizing the Strategic Plan and aligning resources to drive equitable student outcomes. Families are the most critical partner in sustaining strong schools, and many feel left out of decision-making — especially the annual budgeting process. This year's budget caught many families by surprise when specialty programs were proposed for cuts. We have real work to do to build trust through transparent accountability and accessibility.

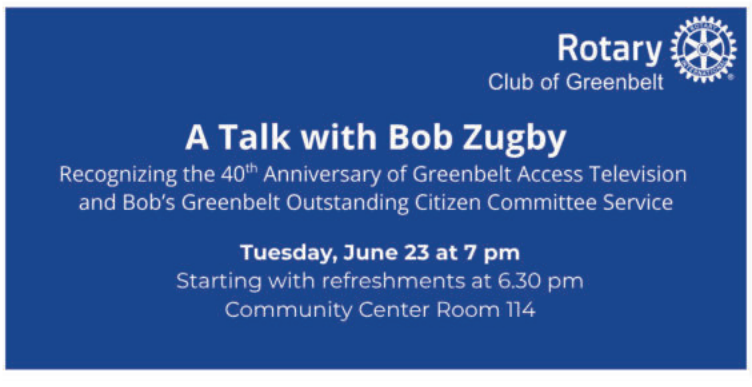
Additionally, with the superintendent in place and the Strategic Plan in its final phases, there is an opportunity to clarify goals for student success and ensure every school is resourced with staff and facilities to meet them. As someone who has spent eight years working in teacher preparation and retention, I will be closely monitoring vacancy rates, with heightened attention on special education staff hiring to address the state corrective action plan.

2. What is your position on technology in the classroom, including the place of screen-based learning and educational platforms? How would you prioritize classroom technology and subscriptions within the budget relative to other student support services?

Technology can play an important role in providing engaging, differentiated content to students. However, as an educator and a parent, I feel strongly that technology should be one strategy in a diverse toolbox and, like everything, used in moderation. I would like to conduct a landscape analysis of all apps students are expected to access, by grade level, so we can concretely understand how much time students are spending on technology each day and the purpose of each engagement. I also want to understand if screens are being used to fill staffing gaps — for example, using an app instead of hiring an interventionist or aide. Staffing schools with qualified educators and ensuring safe facilities are my budgetary priorities over maintaining a myriad of apps. That said, it's best to make decisions based on data with an eye on equity, so understanding the lay of the land is an important first step.

3. How do you plan to hold those who report to the board and your fellow members accountable as to board policies and requirements that haven't always been enforced in recent years, such as attendance requirements, budget deadlines and governing rules in general?

See **SCHOOL BOARD**, page 10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Election 2026

Nine Candidates Are Running For Circuit Court Judge

by Charlotte Ormond

This month, nine Prince George's County candidates are running for a permanent seat as a circuit court judge for Circuit 7. In each county in Maryland, the Circuit Court handles major criminal and civil cases, including juvenile and family court disputes, and appeals from the District Court. Most of the candidates are currently serving on the bench; however, they need to be voted in to gain a permanent position.

In Maryland, the governor usually appoints a judge from lists created by local nominating commissions. In this race, Governor Wes Moore appointed most of the candidates to the bench. At least one year after their appointment, the candidate must stand for election to continue for a 15-year term. During the election, candidates who were not appointed may run against them, as long as they meet the qualifications. The state requires candidates to be U.S. citizens, registered voters and Maryland lawyers at least 30 years of age. They also must have lived in the state for at least five years and in the county for at least six months. At the end of a term, the candidate can run for reelection until the age of 70.

Voters will be able to select up to nine of the nine candidates.

LaKeecia Allen

LaKeecia Allen has been serving as an associate judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County since being appointed by Moore in 2024. Allen earned her B.A. in political science from American University and her law degree from the University of Maryland's Francis King Carey School of Law. Before her current position, Allen served as a district court judge for Prince George's County from 2020 to 2024, and also served as campaign manager for Angela Alsobrooks' 2010 campaign for state attorney. Allen also teaches law-related courses at Bowie State University.

Scott M. Carrington

Scott M. Carrington currently serves as an associate judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County since his appointment by Moore in 2024. Previously, he served as an associate judge for the District Court from 2017 to 2024 and as a presiding judge for the Adult Drug Court from 2020 to 2024. Judicial biographies note that Carrington served as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and is a former judge advocate general. Carrington earned his B.S. from Bowie State University and also attended the Cooley School of Law at Western Michigan University.

Ada Elizabeth Clark-Edwards

Ada Elizabeth Clark-Edwards joined the Circuit Court in 2024, appointed by Moore, after serving eight years as a district court judge. Clark-Edwards also previously served as a prosecutor in the office of the Prince George's County State's Attorney, specializing in domestic and family violence, and worked in the Office on Violence Against Women at the U.S. Department of Justice from 2010 to 2011. She earned her B.S. in mass communications from Towson State University and juris doctor degree at the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America.

Althea Stewart Jones

Althea Stewart Jones is currently serving as an associate judge for Prince George's County's Circuit Court after working for two years as the deputy executive director for family court administration within Maryland's court system. Jones also served eight years as the director of Maryland's foster care court improvement program. She spent several years at the Legal Aid Bureau, holding multiple leadership roles focused on child advocacy and legal services. Jones received her B.A. from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and her law degree from the University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Law.

Donnaka Varner Lewis

Donnaka Varner Lewis was appointed as an associate judge to the Circuit Court in 2025, bringing nine years of experience as an associate judge to the District Court. Prior to these roles, Lewis served as an assistant state's attorney, where she specialized in felony trials. Born in Ohio, Lewis earned her B.A. in psychology from Hampton University, her M.A. in psychology from American University and her law degree from the University of Maryland's School of Law.

Michael Ray Pearson

Michael Ray Pearson has been serving as an associate judge for the Circuit Court since 2009, making him one of the longest-serving candidates in the race. Before joining the bench, Pearson served as an assistant state's attorney from 1999 to 2004, and a senior trial attorney for the Homicide Unit from 2007 to 2009. Pearson has also served on the criminal law section council of the Maryland State Bar Association since 2007. Born in Washington, D.C., he attended Morehouse College before earning his law degree from the Catholic University of America.

Joseph C. Ruddy III

Joseph C. Ruddy III was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2026, making him one of the newest candidates to the bench. Prior to this role, Ruddy served as an attorney with the Prince George's County Office of Law for seven years and since 2025 was the primary legal advisor for Prince George's County Police. He has 15 years of experience as a prosecutor in the State's Attorney's Office. Ruddy has taught courses for police departments on topics such as the Fourth Amendment. Ruddy earned his law degree from the Catholic University of America.

Stacey Cobb Smith

Stacey Cobb Smith joined the Circuit Court in 2025 after previously serving as a district court judge. She is a member of various subcommittees, including Human Trafficking and Community Outreach. Before joining the bench, Smith served as an assistant state's attorney, leading the major crimes unit. Smith earned her B.S. in criminal justice from Coppin State College before earning her law degree from the University of the District of Columbia's David A. Clarke School of Law.

Todd Steuart

Todd Steuart was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2024 after serving as a foreclosure magistrate since 2023. Steuart worked in the Office of the State's Attorney from 2015 to 2023 and spent years in private practice and title law, including serving as vice-president of Atlantic Coast Title. He earned his B.A. from St. Mary's College of Maryland and his law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Charlotte Ormond is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.

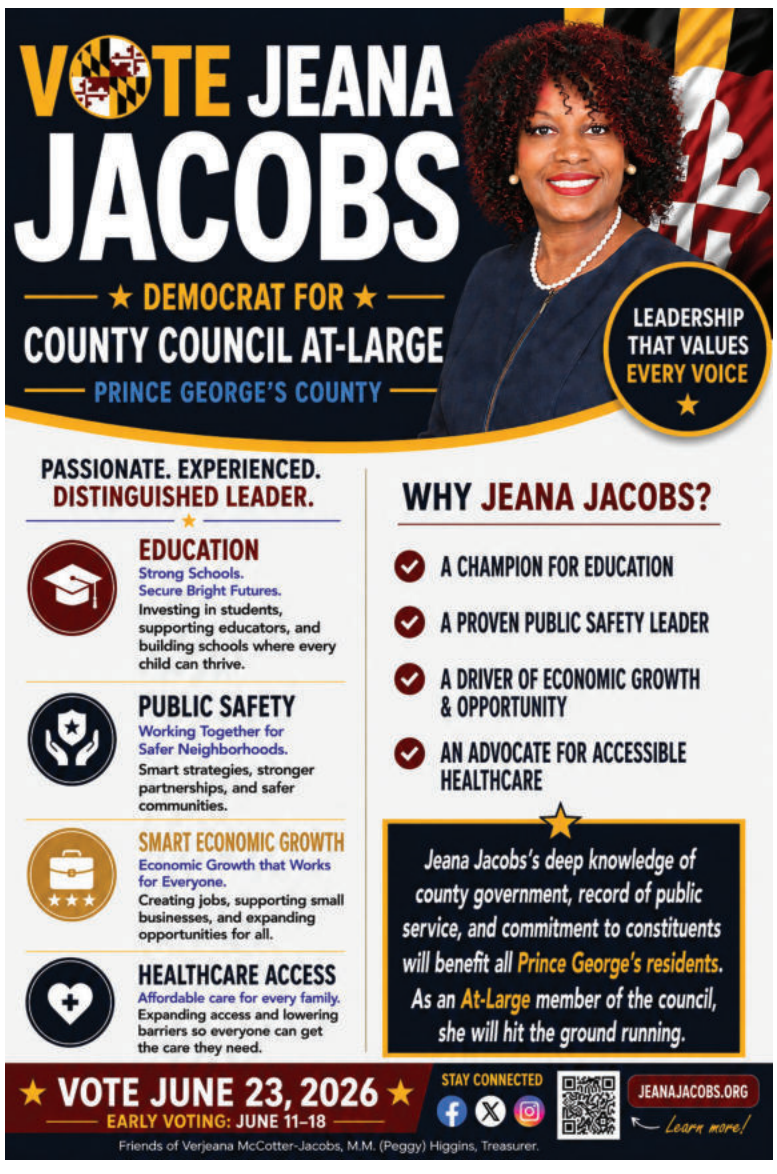
Greenbelters Travel

PHOTO COURTESY CINDY CUTRIGHT

Cindy Cutright and Brian Clark in New Orleans

PHOTOS BY CAITLYN MCGILLEN AND KEMARI LEGG

A group of young Greenbelters went camping at Westmoreland State Park together, with adult supervision. Some of them have been camping together for four years now.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BUSPATROL continued from page 7

competitive bidding process and others have included negotiations of the financial terms (such as revenue sharing and other fees). "The $400 monthly technology fee was higher than the fees paid by other LEAs we know used this vendor's camera system, which ranged from $85 to $350," said their analysis.

The News Review asked PGCPS Senior Public Information Specialist Lynn McCawley if anything had been done to address concerns flagged in the state audit that this was a no-bid contract that was not competitive in its revenue sharing, for example soliciting other bids. McCawley responded, "Using a cooperative contract like TIPS is permitted under both Maryland law and PGCPS policy, so 'no-bid' via cooperative is not automatically a violation. A cooperative agreement allows for PGCPS to enter into contracts with vendors who have participated in a competitive bidding process with another public entity." TIPS (The Interlocal Purchasing System) is a cooperative purchasing program that enables government entities, including schools, to use "pre-competed" contracts for technology services.

Modifications

The contract is now up for renewal and appears on the consent agenda for the Board of Education's upcoming meeting. A consent agenda is one on which items are voted on as a group, without individual discussion. The Board Action Summary prepared for the agenda item states, "The Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools to enter into the BusPatrol Contract Renewal." It notes that it is not a new contract but is a modified one. The modifications are not shared as they are on some other similar items on the agenda. The benefits of the contract are noted to be: (1) proven reduction in dangerous driving behavior, (2) direct student safety improvements, (3) additional protection for students and staff and (4) community safety impact. There is no mention of the revenue from the program. If approved, the contract would be for five years.

McCawley told the News Review that modifications included "a new, detailed interior-camera video request-and-delivery section with defined request types, delivery timelines, an access log, and notice requirements" and "a data-ownership statement that all data generated is the sole and exclusive property of the District, with BusPatrol permitted to use captured imaging and data for training purposes only to implement the contract." McCawley made no mention of modifications to the profit-sharing arrangement.

The Board of Education meeting at which the contract is scheduled to be voted on as part of the consent agenda will be held on June 11 at 7 p.m. at 14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro.

SCHOOL BOARD continued from page 8

The Board of Education has a responsibility to evaluate the superintendent annually; therefore, adherence to deadlines and reporting requirements should be built into those performance goals. This is not an arbitrary expectation, as the reporting requirements and deadlines for things like budget transparency are intended to ensure stakeholders can be partners in the school system.

Additionally, my work in state education policy has required regular public oversight hearings where my office must answer questions from elected bodies on programs and policies. I plan to hold district leadership similarly accountable by requesting data-informed presentations and updates on specific topics grounded in community testimony.

For fellow boardmembers, board culture starts with modeling the behavior we expect — showing up prepared, meeting deadlines and following the rules we set for others. Actions that routinely undermine our service to advancing student outcomes are not welcome.

4. How do you plan to improve transparency and proactive communication with the District 2 community?

I believe in meeting families where they are, which is why most events I've hosted over the last few months have been out in the community where District 2 families already gather. I also believe in leveraging systems and structures that already exist. There are already so many engaged local groups — municipal events, small business owners, parent meetups, WhatsApp groups — and the board can do a better job identifying those channels to share information.

It's also important to give people an onramp to access and engage with the board and amplify their voices in decision-making. For example, I recently created videos explaining the PGCPS CSI [Critical Success Indicators] dashboards because stakeholders should know what those are and how they can use them to monitor equity and accountability. Providing more opportunities for families to feel informed and welcomed to provide input — by design — is critical to meaningfully engaging the local community as true partners.

IMMERSION continued from page 7

eighth grader. "I'm happy and grateful for the overall win and the future of the program but also sad and angry about the inconsiderate manner with which they handled the issue," Staples told the News Review. "Our family recognized the value of this program and made the decision to enter our student in kindergarten with the intention of following all the way through to high school graduation. After nine years of sacrifice and commitment, for them to just completely take it away only to suddenly reinstate it so late in the year is wrong and almost feels like a purposeful sabotage," she said. Staples' family has already committed to sending their student to Bishop McNamara, a private catholic school, instead and she believes many other families may be beyond the point of switching, too. "I just hope the program isn't penalized for low enrollment. I'm definitely feeling a strange mix of emotions," said Staples.

The uncertainty about the continuation of immersion, the language of sustaining the programming through the 2026-2027 school year, the unfinished long-term programmatic planning and the one week given to respond for an immersion seat available so late in the year may well mean the high school immersion programs that PGCPS already considered underenrolled will be further reduced for the coming year.

The author has children who attend a K-8 immersion school.

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TELESCOPE continued from page 1

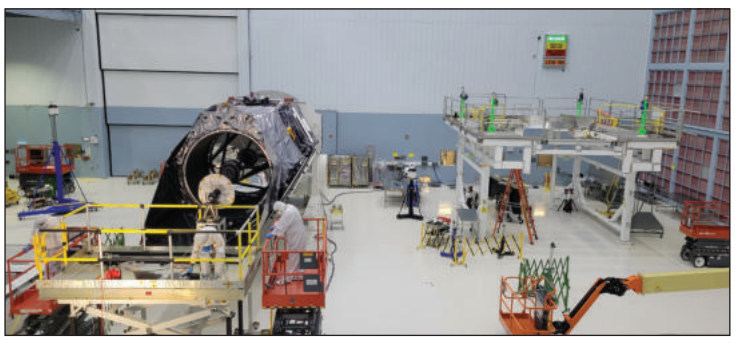

PHOTO BY BERNARD KELLY

The Nancy Grace Roman Telescope as seen at NASA Goddard in May

PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Roman. In this role, he led a team of engineers and technicians responsible for building the main structure of the telescope.

McClelland said his favorite part of working on the project was the quality of the team he worked with. "It really is just an amazing team of really very brilliant, hardworking people. The inspiring science mission really draws in some of the most passionate, talented workforce," he said.

NASA announced that the telescope is on track to launch this September, eight months ahead of schedule and on budget. McClelland believes that the hard work of the team, along with effective management, has contributed to the success and speed of Roman's development.

"The success of Roman, especially with the budget and schedule success, should help us win more work in the future," he said, noting Greenbelt's potential growth as a center for space exploration.

Large portions of the telescope were designed and built at Goddard, including the spacecraft bus (usually built elsewhere), a crucial component that contains the electronics, propulsion systems and antennas that allow the telescope to operate and communicate with Earth. According to McClelland, the bus is usually built out of house, but for Roman, it was designed and built at Goddard.

"The bulk of the design, simulation, fabrication [and] assembly was done at Goddard," he said.

Engineers in Goddard's Engineering and Technology Directorate helped develop several components for Roman, including instruments that will enable scientists to measure the distances and speeds of stars and galaxies.

Throughout Roman's mission, scientists hope to collect the deepest and most detailed views and data of the Milky Way ever captured. This will be accomplished through Roman's Galactic Bulge Time-Domain Survey, which will track stars' brightness and discover distant, unknown planets, likely setting the record for studying the farthest-known exoplanet.

Another one of Roman's main objectives is to conduct surveys of the cosmos to allow scientists to better understand dark matter, which is causing the universe to expand quickly.

"The most exciting thing for me is that there's some result that points the way to new physics and a better understanding of the universe, and especially the great mysteries of dark energy and dark matter," McClelland said.

On May 20 and 21, Roman passed the final critical inspection of its primary mirror. In the next few weeks, the telescope will be shipped to NASA's Kennedy Space Center, located on Merritt Island, Fla., where the current plan is for launch this September.

Charlotte Ormond is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.

Water Safety Everywhere Is Everyone's Responsibility

by Li'l Dan Celdran

With May recognized as Water Safety and Drowning Prevention Month, it served as an important reminder that, while water activities provide fun, exercise and recreation, they also require awareness, preparation and responsibility. As outdoor pools open and summer begins, families and friends flock to pools, lakes, rivers, beaches and water parks. Whether people are swimming, boating or simply spending time near the water, safety should always be a top priority.

As an American Red Cross-certified lifeguard and experienced swim instructor myself, I know that lifeguards are trained first responders prepared to prevent, recognize and respond to emergencies both in and around the water.

But water safety is everyone's responsibility. Parents, caregivers, swimmers and bystanders all play a role in preventing accidents and saving lives. Drowning remains one of the leading causes of accidental death worldwide.

The most effective way to prevent drowning is through active supervision. Nothing replaces a responsible adult watching children in and around the water. Parents and caregivers should designate a Water Watcher whose sole responsibility is supervising swimmers without distractions.

Proper safety equipment is necessary for participating in water activities. Children and inexperienced swimmers should wear life jackets. Following pool rules is another important part of water safety. For example, walking instead of running on slippery pool decks, avoiding roughhousing and following lifeguard instructions all contribute to a safer environment.

PHOTO BY JOHN APPIAH-DUFFELL

Mabel poses with a frog she discovered next to the Aquatic & Fitness Center's wading pool on June 6.

Français, s'il Vous Plaît New Summer Location

The French conversation group that meets every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. must change its meeting location for the summer. In June, July and August, the group will meet in Room 109 (Senior Activity Room) at the Community Center. All ages and all levels of proficiency are welcome.

Greenbelt Listings

2C Gardenway

3-Bed | 1-Bath | $275,000
Watch the Labor Day Parade from your porch! This brick townhome is right in the center of town. Hardwood floors, mini-splits and an updated bathroom with a large shower stall and surround.

45 Ridge Road

3-Bed | 2-Bath | $340,000
A great "move-up" home in the GHI community, this brick townhome has an addition with a half bath, laundry, and a large room that could be a bedroom, family room, office, craft room, anything!

19C Hillside

2-Bed | 2-Bath | $235,000
A rare main-level full bath and an updated kitchen, this bargain-priced unit backs to the woods overlooking the Firefly Sanctuary. Sweet front porch, private back yard, and mini-splits to keep it cool inside.

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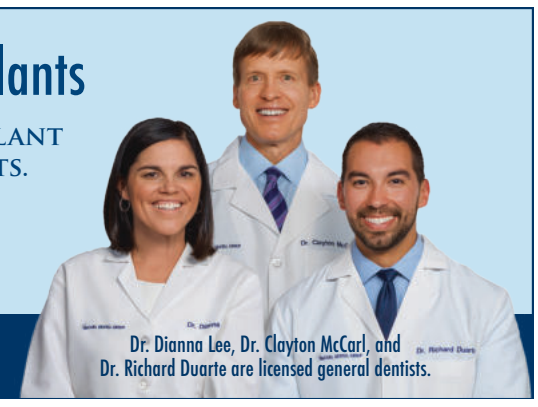

Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

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SHERIFF continued from page 1

residing in Brandywine with his wife and four children. He graduated from Bishop McNamara High School, earned a bachelor's in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Maryland at College Park and holds a master's in public administration from Norwich University. With over 20 years of service, he worked in positions across the Office of the Sheriff, including Courts, Warrants and the Domestic Violence Intervention Division. He was elected the 118th Sheriff of Prince George's County in 2022 and sworn in that December.

1. Tell us a little about your career trajectory, the roles you've held, experience and what leads you to run for reelection as sheriff this year.

I began my law enforcement career on the front lines of the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office, advancing through every rank and serving in all bureaus, including Courts, Administration and leading Field Operations. I later served as one of three assistant sheriffs before being elected sheriff in 2022. Since then, I have launched the county's first Citizens Academy, established the Behavioral Health Unit, created youth engagement and senior safety programs and expanded domestic violence services. I am seeking reelection because our work is not finished, and Prince George's County deserves a sheriff with proven leadership, not someone who needs time to learn the job.

2. What will be your number one priority if elected sheriff?

My top priority is apprehending dangerous offenders and removing violent criminals from our neighborhoods. I will establish a dedicated warrant task force to reduce gun violence and pursue cases involving firearms and violent offenders. Every resident of Prince George's County deserves to live, work and raise a family without fear. I am committed to this mission every day, using all the resources and leadership of the Sheriff's Office.

3. What can the Sheriff's Office do to combat juvenile crime?

Addressing juvenile crime requires both prevention and intervention, and the Sheriff's Office is well-positioned to lead. Through the Inspiring Young Minds program, deputies mentor students in six middle schools, building trust at a critical age. The Sheriff's Saturday Youth Academy provides structured programming and mentorship beyond the school week. Mentoring through Athletics uses the power of sports to build character, discipline and trust between youth and law enforcement. Youth Explorer Post #1696 introduces young people to law enforcement careers, instills leadership skills and creates a pipeline of future public servants invested in Prince George's County. The Behavioral Health Unit identifies and supports youth in mental health crises before situations escalate. I will expand all of these programs to reach more schools and students. Investing in mentorship, athletics and early intervention is our most effective strategy to reduce juvenile crime and build a stronger, safer community.

4. What importance does the Prince George's County Sheriff hold for residents of cities like Greenbelt, and is there any local impact you hope to have?

The Sheriff's Office serves Greenbelt residents through courthouse security, warrant enforcement, domestic violence intervention and community outreach. Greenbelt is a diverse and engaged community, and its residents deserve the same commitment to safety, transparency and service as all of Prince George's County. I will strengthen our presence in Greenbelt by expanding outreach, participating in local events and ensuring every resident knows the Sheriff's Office is accessible, responsive and working for them every day.

Ron Oliver

Ron Oliver has a total of 36 years with the Sheriff's Office and Sheriff's Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), including 25 years in sworn active duty and 13 years on the Executive Board of Directors for the Sheriff's FOP Lodge 112. He began his law enforcement career with the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office in 1990. In 2022 he was appointed assistant sheriff for Prince George's County, when Carr became sheriff. In 2023 he completed a full seven-month class at the University of Maryland's Police Academy, something he says was not required but proved beneficial in many ways.

1. Tell us a little about your career trajectory, the roles you've held, experience and what leads you to run for election as sheriff this year.

I spent the majority of my career in the Bureau of Field Operations and I was one of the original members of our Domestic Violence Unit in 1993. I was a part of the Warrant Division, which dealt with every type of warrant from traffic to murder. I was a special deputy on the U.S. Marshals Task Force for approximately six years and eventually became the Street Operations Commander for the warrant/fugitive division. My training, experience and care that I have for both the members of the Sheriff's Office and the community give me the passion and commitment to become the next sheriff of Prince George's County. The Sheriff's Office FOP members completed an endorsement process between the current sheriff and myself; the results were 88.6 percent in my favor. The women and men of the agency have spoken loud and clear on who they want for their next sheriff.

2. What will be your number one priority if elected as sheriff?

Walking in the door, I will restore the trust between the members and leadership. I will have any/all non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) signed by any employee, removed immediately. I will also cease any/all preferential treatment in certain areas of the county and serve the entire county equally. I will work on staffing all of our mandated sections of the Sheriff's Office and start focusing on fulfilling those assignments.

3. What can the Sheriff's Office do to combat juvenile crime?

The Sheriff's Office can partner with all of our other agencies in the county, to include our state's attorney office. Better education and communication are paramount in working as one cohesive county. Juvenile crime is a problem and we need to get through to our parents and children together, so everyone understands what it takes to have a successful community.

4. What importance does the Prince George's County Sheriff hold for residents of cities like Greenbelt, and is there any local impact you hope to have?

The city of Greenbelt is a very large area with large apartment complexes requiring evictions, warrants, etc. I plan to work with each municipal agency in the county and see how we can best combine resources for a better Prince George's County.

Election 2026

Early Voting Begins

Early voting is Thursday, June 11 to Thursday, June 18 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Early voting centers near Greenbelt are:

College Park Community Center, 5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park

Wayne K. Curry Sports & Learning Center, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover

Kentland Community Center, 2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover

Trinity Assembly of God, 7800 Good Luck Road, Lanham

Laurel-Beltsville Senior Center, 7120 Contee Road, Laurel

Juneteenth Festival At Watkins Park

Bring the whole family to Watkins Regional Park for live music, local artists and vendors, history exhibits, kids' activities, food trucks and more on Saturday, June 13 from noon to 5 p.m. Celebrate freedom, heritage, and community through music, culture and fun with performances from Rare Essence, Proverbs Reggae Band, Soul in Motion and Got My Own Sound Band.

The event is free and suitable for all ages. Watkins Regional Park is located at 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro.

Riversdale Summer Concert Series

The Riversdale Summer Concert Series highlights different bands each concert. The next concert is Wednesday, June 24 from 7 to 8 p.m. The concerts are free and suitable for all ages. Register at ParksDirect (mdpgparksweb.myvscloud.com). Bring a lawn chair and a picnic dinner. Riversdale Historic Site and Museum is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park.

American Legion Hosts Blood Drive July 6

With the approach of summer, the Red Cross is bracing for an annual seasonal shortage of blood, as regular donors go on vacation and miss blood drives. This shortage can affect lifesaving treatment at area hospitals. The American Legion is hosting a Red Cross blood drive on Monday, July 6. Appointments for donations of whole blood are available from 2:15 to 5:45 p.m. There are multiple appointments available for Power Red donations; height and weight restrictions apply.

There is currently a critical need for platelets, which can be donated at the Lanham Blood Donation Center, only three miles from Greenbelt on Annapolis Road. The center is open Sundays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Donating platelets takes about two hours.

Donors of all blood types – especially type O – are urged to make an appointment to help meet the needs of patients. Visit redcross.org to make an appointment.

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred June 1-7, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one death and two domestic incidents resulting in arrest; another domestic incident led to an arrest for vandalism and DUI.

Three missing juveniles returned home safe.

On June 7 at 10:05 p.m. near 107 Centerway, a man lost control of his vehicle and drove through a sign, a bench and a tree before stopping.

After a report of a fight, it turned out there was no fight.

Assault and Fighting

On June 1 at 6:39 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a young person was punched in the face by an adult. The adult was arrested and taken to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

On June 2 at 1:31 p.m. near 5908 Cherrywood Terrace, two people had an altercation that resulted in their vehicle colliding with two parked vehicles; officers facilitated information exchange and advised options.

On June 2 at 7:48 p.m. near 101 Centerway, two women were involved in a verbal altercation that turned physical while changing in the pool locker room; they left after pool employees intervened.

On June 6 at 2:44 a.m. near 6227 Springhill Court, two women explained that after a night of partying, they got into an argument and a physical altercation ensued. They both signed waivers of right to prosecute.

Strong Arm Robbery

On June 7 at 4:25 a.m. near 6400 Ivy Lane, a man dropped his friend off; the friend got upset over a joke and tried to fight with him. A scuffle occurred and the man fell to the ground, then the other man went through his pockets and stole his iPhone and $2,300 in cash and was last seen in the 9100 block of Edmonston Road.

Threats

On June 1 at 12:26 p.m. near 6220 Springhill Drive, a man and wife were asked to leave by the Volunteers of America for violating their lease agreement. The man threatened to shoot the staff and a social worker assigned to assisting his wife.

DUI Arrest

On June 7 at 1:21 a.m. near Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Greenbelt Road, an officer saw a 2016 Ram truck leaving Royal Farms almost hit a vehicle turning into the parking lot. The truck turned left onto Greenbelt Road, struck the median and swerved between multiple lanes. After investigation, the driver was arrested for DUI.

Fraud

On June 2 near 6958 Hanover Parkway, someone hacked into an Uber account and withdrew funds; near 6305 Ivy Lane, a business received a call from the bank regarding a fraudulent wire transfer. The account may have been accessed through a cell phone.

Theft

On June 1 at 2:16 p.m. near 107 Centerway, a man entered a business and took some juice and snacks. As he was leaving, he made a hand gesture as if threatening to shoot the clerk. Officers located him nearby, and he was banned from the property. The business did not wish to pursue any further criminal charges.

On June 1 at 1:12 p.m. near 7573 Greenbelt Road, two men stole soap and fled in a gray Hyundai Tucson.

On June 2 at 6:12 p.m. near 5925 Cherrywood Terrace, a man who had been filling a jug with money over the last two years opened the jug, and found most of the money was missing.

On June 3 at 4:55 p.m. near 9118 Edmonston Court, a youth was seen taking packages; officers located a parent who was going to handle the situation.

On June 3 at 7:19 p.m. near 432 Ridge Road, someone stole a package but a Ring camera did not record the thief's face.

Trespassing Citation

On June 4 at 5:24 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman banned from Beltway Plaza was issued a citation.

Vandalism

On June 5 at 4:46 p.m. near 6003 Springhill Drive, someone spread feces all over the apartment door.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

Two vehicles were stolen: on June 1 near Springhill Court and Edmonston Road, a 2016 Chrysler 2000 (Md: 9GC7316); and on June 6 near 7818 Cloister Place, a black 2015 Honda CRV (Md: 2GC9270).

Stolen Vehicle Recovered

On June 4 near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a 2018 Dodge Charger sped past officers at 100 mph or more and pulled into the Shell Food Mart; the driver went inside the store. A passenger inside the vehicle was temporarily detained for the investigation. The tag did not match any vehicle and the VIN inside the window was scratched out. The driver fled but officers located and arrested him. The vehicle had been stolen from Montgomery County; the driver was taken to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

Theft from Auto

On June 1 near 7823 Mandan Road, a tag was stolen.

On June 1 near 7474 Greenway Center Drive, a thief stole items from a vehicle with the window down.

On June 5 near 131 Westway, a disability placard was stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On June 3 near 7601 Hanover Parkway, an Eleanor Roosevelt High School staff member found their vehicle vandalized with key scratches.

On June 4 near 6142 Springhill Terrace, a man's girlfriend allegedly scratched his vehicle during an argument, causing damage.

On June 6 near 432 Ridge Road, a tire was slashed on a Honda Civic.

Missing Person Located Safe

Uchechi Chijindum Nkemdirim, reported missing in last week's paper, has been located safe and reunited with her family. The Greenbelt Police Department thanks everyone for their assistance in locating her.

Search for Suspect in Home Invasion, Assault

The Greenbelt Police Department's Criminal Investigations Unit is actively investigating a home invasion and first-degree assault that occurred on Monday, June 8, at approximately 8:34 p.m. in the 6200 block of Springhill Court.

Investigators determined that the suspect remained outside the residence for more than an hour before forcibly entering the apartment while brandishing a large knife. The suspect is described as a Black male wearing a black New Balance hooded sweatshirt, light blue jeans, black-and-white shoes, a blue surgical-style face mask, and a black ski mask rolled up on top of his head.

Anyone who can identify this individual or has information regarding this incident is asked to contact Detective Ordaz at 240-542-2130 or AOrdaz@greenbeltmd.gov. Information may also be provided to the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.

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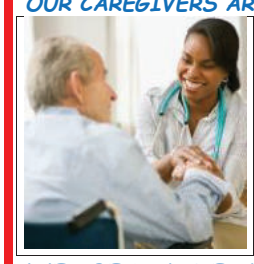

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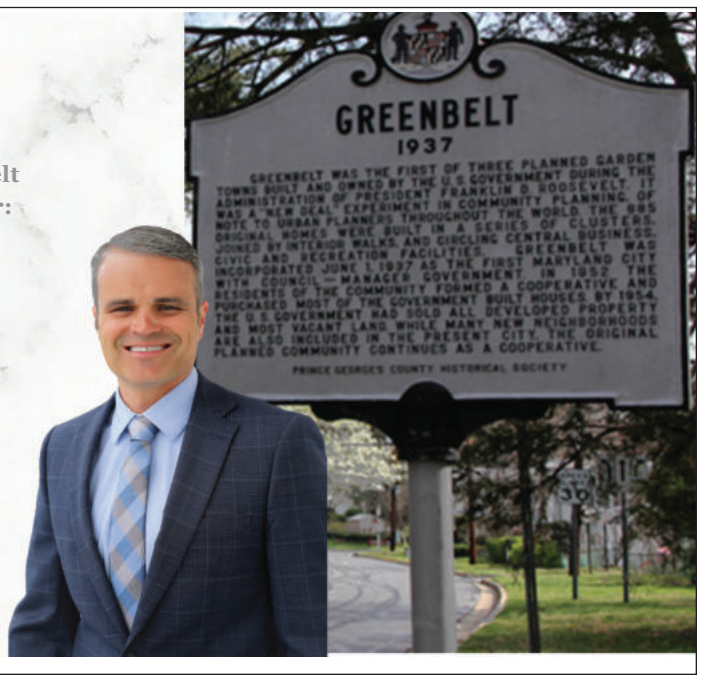

Not For Seniors Only Event Talks About Caregiver Tasks, Preparedness

by Mary Wade

On Saturday, June 6, the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (SCAC) of Greenbelt held its annual Not For Seniors Only event. The topic was Caregivers: You Are Not Alone. SCAC Chair Carol Shaw introduced the opening speaker and founder of SCAC, Betty Timer, to provide general information about caregivers. She began her talk by engaging the audience with the question, "Who is a caregiver?"

After hearing the various ways people provided caregiving, Timer followed up with data.

She quoted the Alliance for Caregiving, established in 1997, stating that one out of four Marylanders are caregivers: 49 percent care for their parents, 75 percent are women, 29 percent provide care 40 hours a week and 99 percent provide transportation. Caregiving also involves housework, shopping, medication management – preparing or giving medicine or reminding when meds should be taken, managing finances and arranging outside services.

Then she asked, "Who cares for the caregivers? What do caregivers do when they need time for themselves?" Timer emphasized how important it is to take care of oneself.

She then switched the focus of the conversation to ask the question, "What makes you happy or where do you find your solace?" Responses included: go for a walk, listen to the birds, do stained glass or other crafts, listen to music, exercise and garden. Her advice, given as a homework assignment, was to make a list of 10 things that give you solace or make you happy, then take time to do these things regularly.

PHOTO BY MARY WADE

From left, presenters Betty Timer, Sharon Johnson and Carol Shaw at the Not For Seniors Only event sponsored by the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee during Greenbelt Day weekend on Saturday, June 6

The next speaker, Sharon Johnson, community case worker for GAIL (Greenbelt Assistance In Living), provided practical advice for caregivers. Johnson has been helping seniors and adult residents with disabilities for the past 18 years to identify, locate and acquire the services and supports necessary to safely age in place. The service she provides makes it possible for the 85 percent of our aging residents who want to remain in their own home to do so.

Caring for them can mean anything from helping with incidentals to full-time caregiving. Johnson ended her talk by distributing her Readiness Checklist and Action Plan handout, a handy tool for getting started today for a healthy and happy tomorrow. Caregivers, remember, you are not alone.

For further questions or advice or to receive a copy of the handout, contact Johnson by phone at 301-345-6660 or email at sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov.

Mary Wade is a member of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

Four Caregiver Takeaways

What do caregivers need to know and how can they prepare to meet the changing challenges for their loved one?

1. Caregiver Readiness Toolkit – Assemble in a gallon-size zip-lock bag the following items: list of medications, emergency contacts, insurance information, important documents, hospital go-bag (optional) and a calendar with appointments. Hang this on or next to the front door or somewhere that it can be easily found in the event of an emergency.

2. Build a Team Before You Need One – It is important to create an action plan that includes respite time. Be sure to have a conversation with each "team" member so everyone has an understanding about their responsibilities before they are needed.

3. Caregiver Survival Tips – Be aware of early signs of burnout and do something from your list of things that make you happy or give you solace. Create a list of 10 things the recipient enjoys so a friend can know how to connect with your loved one when you go out.

4. Dementia Caregiver Tips – Dementia can change a person's personality so it is important to be kind, focus on their abilities, stay connected, keep a routine and take care of yourself. Remember, don't ask open-ended questions; rather, give a choice of two things and give the person time to listen, process and respond.

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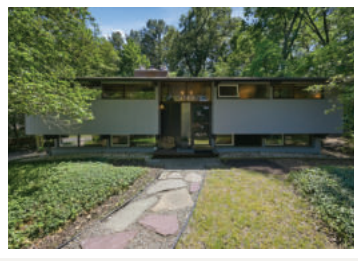

UNDER CONTRACT
3413 Metzerott Road
College Park, MD
List Price: $825,000

UNDER CONTRACT
5308 Davis Point Lane
Greenbelt, MD
List Price: $589,900

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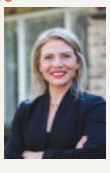
Melanie.Cantwell@LNF.com



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Brick Townhome Converted main-level bedroom with half-bath. Laminate flooring throught. Mini-split HVAC system. Modern kitchen & bathroom. **Coming Soon - Brick townhome on corner lot** Many upgrades through the home including a remodeled kitchen and bathroom. Close to City Center.

Need to reach us right away? Text 'Greenbelt' to 88000 on your cell phone and get an instant response! We can show you any listing in Greenbelt.

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4-Level Townhome - 2,800 sq. ft. of living space! Shows like a model home. Open floorplan and 4th floor loft w/bedroom & full bath. Amazing!

Single-family home with 2-level sunroom. 4 br 2 ba rambler with large yard 16'x20'powered and heated workshop. Remodeled kitchen & fin. basement.

2 Bedroom townhome with enclosed front porch. Remodeled interior with enlarged kitchen. Private backyard.

Lakeside! 4BR 2 1/2BA Rambler on cul-de-sac just steps away from the lake. Completely remodeled interior!

GRANT PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS!

Your Greenbelt Specialists In Roosevelt Center Since 1986

Rotary Club Hosts a Tour of A Variety of Greenbelt Gardens

by Lesley Kash

The Greenbelt Rotary Club, with help from the Greenbelt-Beltsville Garden Club and the Greenbelt Community Garden Club hosted a 12-garden fundraising tour on Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to support the Rotary Club's community service projects. Experienced Greenbelt gardeners welcomed at least 64 visitors to home and community gardens, offering advice about food production as well as growing ornamental plants.

Shaymar Higgs welcomes visitors to his garden plot.

Melissa Mackey researches on the spot to answer visitors' questions.

Greenbelt East

A Three Sisters Garden offers a peaceful circular oasis in Schrom Hills Park for relaxing, learning, planting and community events. It is one of three Three Sisters Gardens in Greenbelt sponsored by the CHesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS).

A nearby home garden on Landon Court displayed the artistry of home gardener Hope McCalla, who has cultivated flowers, fruits and vegetables in multiple garden rooms for 32 years. She composts and uses coffee grounds from Starbucks to enrich the soil. "This is my therapy," she said, "My work away from work."

Greenbelt West

At another Three Sisters Garden, behind Springhill Lake Recreation Center, elementary school student members of the CHEARS Earth Squad plant, maintain and harvest fruits and vegetables. Fifteen raised beds and a Little Library (with books and seeds) are decorated by the children. Host Bill Davis (with his granddaughter) explained the garden's added value to the Recreation Center's after-school program, providing fresh air, exercise and education. Davis' granddaughter explained the hardest part: "You have to pull the weeds. Not the tomatoes." Yep.

Greenbelt Center

At the third Three Sisters Garden, behind the Community Center, volunteers maintain a high-visibility demonstration garden focused on healthy, sustainable foods.

On Ridge Road, practical gardener Hannah Hethmon's five-year yard makeover – with fruits and natives on the garden side and vegetables in raised beds on the service side – supports wildlife while sustainably producing large quantities of food; 500 pounds last year between her maximized yard and a community plot.

Pat Mische on Southway says gardening is spiritual, scientific, physical, practical and emotional, connecting her to evolution, plant life and human culture.

Rashi, also on Southway, is a self-taught, 10-year organic gardener who practices no till/no kill gardening. She mimics natural systems and enjoys abundant vegetable and herb harvests.

Councilmember and Rotarian Kristen Weaver said she "enjoyed seeing differences in the gardens, whether vegetables or ornamentals; gardens really express gardeners' interests."

Melissa Mackey, outgoing longtime president of the Greenbelt-Beltsville Garden Club, has cultivated a hidden treasure over decades: a densely planted, sensitively curated collection of beautiful perennial plants, shrubs and trees, blended into a charming tapestry and wildlife magnet. She tastefully incorporates her curated lawn ornamentation and pops of colorful annuals into this delightful, refined hidden garden. Two visitors marveled that they "never knew this was here."

Community Garden Plots

Early Greenbelters needed their community gardens – like small farms that eased austerity and food shortages during the depression and World War II.

Nowadays interest in sustainability and wholesome local foods, combined with budget concerns, encourages new generations of Greenbelters to grow food on a larger scale than home yards can accommodate.

Councilmember Danielle McKinney has maximized a plot near Spellman Overpass into a high-yield mini-farm thanks to hard work and investment in raised beds and other infrastructure. It is a model for the Greenbelt Grows community that she is cultivating. "We can start a little at a time," she said. "Just one small pot of herbs! They have medicinal qualities." Her darling DIY living room promises evening gatherings where next-plot neighbors share cool drinks and gardening discoveries.

One of those neighbors, Shaymar Higgs of The SPACE, is growing herbs, vegetables and berries after just one year, plus a little pond with a solar fountain and frogs. "This is how I process everything that happens at The SPACE," he said. "I typically don't start my day without being out in nature."

Anna Chulaki has a garden plot in the Hamilton gardens behind the Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) office. After just three years, she is now growing 50 varieties of food after "learning from zero."

DuVal High School students earned community service hours by welcoming visitors at the various gardens. Brianna Richardson said, "It's comfortable, I can relax in the garden and get stuff off my mind." Most gardeners would heartily agree with that.

The Rotary Club invites visitors to vote for best garden at tinyurl.com/2jxjahyy, and to upload favorite photos to the Rotary Club's Google Drive at photos.app.goo.gl/cCL51cYusL64PxWz8.

The tour was sponsored by CHEARS and two local businesses, Lillian Farms and Hampton Nursery, both catering to gardeners who value local, healthy plants.

Rotary International is a non-profit service organization dedicated to peace building; local chapters focus on one or more building blocks. Greenbelt Rotary promotes food security, driver education, the environment and peace building.

With member dues, Rotary grants and fundraising projects such as this garden tour, Greenbelt Rotary supports many local causes including CHEARS Three Sisters gardens, Greenbelt Grows, Venture Crew 746, driver education, the Black History and Culture Committee, Springhill Lake and Greenbelt Elementary students and families, the Pumpkin Festival, Outstanding Citizen Award and local International Peace Day events.

Rotary member Erica Johns coordinated the tour and member Kim Kash will coordinate Rotary's second 2026 fundraiser: a house tour on Thanksgiving weekend.

For more information about the Greenbelt Rotary Club, email greenbeltrotary.org. Volunteers and contributions are welcome and will help strengthen the Rotary's growing service agenda.

Bill Davis hosts at the Springhill Lake Three Sisters Garden with help from his granddaughter.

Relaxing in the living room in Danielle McKinney's garden plot

Tour coordinator and Rotarian Erica Johns beside Pat Mische's inspiring garden art

- Photos by Lesley Kash

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

PGCC Academy of Health Sciences student Lola Yemi-Akingbade assisted garden visitors.